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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,044	02/09/2004	Boris Vasilyevich Rozynov	11816.51USD2	2120
7590 11/29/2004			EXAMINER	
Attention of Mark DiPietro MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903			DICUS, TAMRA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1774	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,044

Applicant(s)

ROZYNOV ET AL.

Examiner

Tamra L. Dicus

Art Unit

1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-32 and 46-56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 33-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement is made of the election of Group I, claims 1-19 and 33-45 without traverse.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 35 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The instant claims are not further limiting because a reactive composition is already claimed in the independent claims (e.g. printable layer...comprising a fountain solution and a reactive composition).

Claim 42 is objected. "Grinyard" is misspelled.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the following requirement:

In a continuation or divisional application (other than a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d)), the first sentence of the specification or application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76) should include a reference to the prior application(s) from which benefit of priority is claimed. See 37 CFR 1.78. The following format is suggested: "This is a continuation (or divisional) of Application No. _____, filed _____, now (abandoned, pending or U.S. Patent No. _____)."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Instant claim 1 recites "the layers", however, it is not clear which layer(s) are included.

Claims 3, and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, and 6-7 recites the limitation "the cellulosic layer". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear what the range of the reactive composition is because "ppb" and "wt%" are two units that are incomparable.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Instant claim 18 recites, "a second printable clay layer", and a "third ink layer", however, a first printable clay layer and a first and second ink layer is not claimed.

Claims 33-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Instant claim 33 recites, "a second printable clay layer", however, a first printable clay layer is not claimed.

Claims 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 36 and 37 recites the limitation "the cellulosic layer". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-5, 8-9, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al.

Okabe teaches a packaging material comprised of a substrate of plastic film of polypropylene or polyethylene (2), and a protective printable layer (8) of an acidic aqueous transparent or pigmented ink composition including polyvinyl acetate copolymers and that is printed via gravure printing (equivalent to Applicant's residue arising from a fountain solution as Applicant explains on page 5, lines 6-11, page 9, line 9, and page 17, lines 10-33 that the same materials, once printed on, provides for the fountain solution and ink residue (instant claims 1 and 4) and the reduced odors). See col. 4, lines 15-23 and lines 64-68, and col. 7, lines 20-25 and lines 49-53. Thus one having ordinary skill in the art would expect the reduced odor, residue arising from a fountain solution and the volatile organic compound arising from an ink residue to be present as per instant claims 1 and 4. The entire laminate structure (including 2 and

8) is immersed in an acidic aqueous solution comprising phosphoric acid. See col. 5, lines 5-10 and col. 8, lines 6-30. The substrate film has a thickness of at least 30 microns (col. 4, line 32).

Okabe essentially teaches the claimed invention but does not provide for a reactive composition including a volatile organic carbonyl including urea or C5-9 aldehyde compound, an acrylic layer, a paper substrate (instant claims 1-2, 8, 14, and 19). Santurri et al. teaches a packaging material having a substrate of paper stock, kraft or sulfite paper, or transparent polyolefin polypropylene or polyethylene films (col. 2, lines 5-10, lines 31-38) receiving a coating mixture of C5-9 aldehyde such as urea formaldehyde, polyvinyl acetate, and acrylic via gravure coating (col. 6, lines 21-40). It would therefore have been obvious to modify the Okabe reference by incorporating the teaching of the Santurri reference in analogous art, because the Okabe reference teaches the protective printable composition coating including polyvinyl acetate over the substrate and the secondary reference clearly suggests polyvinyl acetate, acrylic, and urea formaldehyde are functional equivalents both used for adding to the seal strength of the substrate in packaging materials as taught by Santurri at col. 6, lines 12-40. It would have also been obvious to utilize a paper because Santurri teaches both paper, kraft paper, and transparent polyolefin films are functional equivalents used for flexibility in packaging materials as taught by Santurri at col. 2, lines 8-10. Therefore there would be a reasonable expectation of success in the modification to one of ordinary skill in the art because the combination teaches the instantly claimed invention.

Regarding claim 9 to a reactive composition comprising about 30 ppb to 14 wt% of the packaging material, this range is not taught by the prior art, however, an amount of reactive composition of the packaging material is optimizable as it effects the sealability of the compound

since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the Okabe reference to obtain the recited claimed range because Santurri teaches the reactive composition helps address the sealability within a packaging material (col. 6, lines 12-40 of Santurri). That the reactive composition is capable of reacting with a volatile organic carbonyl compound, is not germane since it has been held that an element that is "being able to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. Language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation.

Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al. and further in view of USPN 5,882,746 to Hoffman.

Okabe and Santurri are relied upon above. The combination is silent to teaching a clay layer (instant claim 2) or ink introduced on and into the clay layer in an amount of about 0.5-6 grams of ink /m² (instant claim 18). Hoffman teaches a laminated paperboard package having enhanced graphics using a sheet of clay-coated or super calendered publication paper printed with graphics. The sheet is then applied to a cellulosic substrate when producing a product such as a cereal box. The clay is used to provide a dark colored background substrate to maintain the fine resolution of the graphics printed thereon. See col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 15, and col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 5. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have

modified the combination to include clay as instant claims 2, and 18 because Hoffman teaches paper and clay-coated paper are functional equivalents and clay helps to enhance the graphics printed thereon used in packaging materials (col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 15, and col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 5 of Hoffman). It also would have been obvious to include ink on the clay layer because the applied references employ printing inks on the packaging and the amount of ink /m² of the package material is an optimizable variable considering that the amount recited directly effects the coverage area of the packaging. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272. Further it would have been obvious to have ink into the clay layer because clay is porous and the ink would naturally flow on and into the clay because the combination suggests ink printed on the clay layer.

Okabe nor Santurri teach the thickness of a paper or cellulosic substrate/layer (instant claims 6-7 of about 50-305 micrometers or 305 to 1015 micrometers, or the paper from 50-1200 micrometers or clay layer thickness from 10-100 micrometers of instant claim 18). Hoffman teaches the paper substrate and clay coated paper are within the range of 0.00075-0.00200 inches (19.05 microns-50.8 microns), which falls within Applicant's range of about 50 to 305 microns. See col. 2, lines 60-65. Hoffman teaches the cellulosic substrate can have one or more plies and generally have a thickness of 0.012 -0.025 inches (304.8 - 635 microns), falling within Applicant's range of about 50 to 305 microns or 305 to 1015 micons. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize a thickness as claimed because these thicknesses are conventional and optimizable as thickness also effect the flexibility and strength of the layer. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable

involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272. The clay layer between 10 and 100 microns is optimizable as Hoffman explains the clay layer because the clay coating must be thick enough to mask the color, see col. 1, lines 50-55. Thus, thickness of the clay layer effects the masking color ability. Further note, a prima facie case of obviousness exists where the claimed ranges and prior art ranges do not overlap but are close enough that one skilled in the art would have expected them to have the same properties. See *Titanium Metals Corp. of America v. Banner*, 778 F. 2d 775. The combined paper and clay thickness is within 19.05 – 50.8 microns, and 50.8 microns is close enough to 60 microns (50 microns thick paper + 10 microns thick clay).

Claims 10, 12-13, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al. and further in view of USPN 5,378,762 to Czornij et al.

The combination of Okabe, and Santurri are relied upon above. The combination teaches an exterior acrylic layer as aforementioned, but does not teach its thickness between 2 and 35 microns (instant claim 17). However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to produce a thickness as claimed, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272. Thickness effects the seal strength of the substrate in packaging materials as taught by Santurri at col. 6, lines 12-40.

The combination teaches urea in the reactive combination (claim 15). The combination does not include a hydrazide or aromatic hydrazide like benzoic hydrazide of instant claims 15,

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10, and 12-13. Czornij teaches a coating composition including a pigment dispersant such as hydrazine derivatives like benzoic hydrazide to be applied to a plastic substrate for aqueous coating compositions to enhance pigment dispersion in the solution (see the Abstract, col. 2, lines 25-49, col. 5, lines 30-32, and col. 8, lines 16-20). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to include the hydrazide ingredients of claims 15, 12-13 because Czornij teaches utilizing hydrazide ingredients in coatings that may be applied to plastic substrates to enhance pigment dispersion in the solution (see the Abstract, col. 2, lines 25-49, col. 5, lines 30-32, and col. 8, lines 16-20 of Czornij).

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al. and further in view of USPN 5,500,668 to Malhotra et al.

The combination of Okabe, and Santurri are relied upon above. The combination does not teach adding an alkali metal bisulfite (instant claim 16). Malhotra teaches printed paper or film substrates wherein an inorganic salt such as sodium bisulfite (an alkali metal bisulfite) at col. 13, line 39, applied to the substrate as a coating (col. 18, lines 53-55), and mixed with a binder including formaldehyde and urea-formaldehydes (col. 21, lines 40-68). See also col. 11, lines 26-68, col. 12, lines 40-42, col. 26, lines 30-40. The printed sheet of Malhotra functions as a printed packaging because it is of the same materials. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to include an alkali metal bisulfite because Malhotra teaches coating including the salts effect the drying time and optical density of the images printed on the paper (see col. 10, lines 45-50 and col. 31, lines 25-55 of Malhotra).

Claims 33-37, 41, and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al. and further in view of USPN 5,882,746 to Hoffman.

Okabe teaches a packaging material comprised of a substrate of plastic film of polypropylene or polyethylene (2), and a protective printable layer (8) of an acidic aqueous transparent or pigmented ink composition including polyvinyl acetate copolymers and that is printed via gravure printing (equivalent to Applicant's residue arising from a fountain solution as Applicant explains on page 5, lines 6-11, page 9, line 9, page 13, lines 15-21, and page 17, lines 10-33 that the same materials, once printed on, provides for the fountain solution and ink residue, released odors or carbonyl compound (instant claim 33)). See col. 4, lines 15-23 and lines 64-68, and col. 7, lines 20-25 and lines 49-53. Thus one having ordinary skill in the art would expect the reduced odor, residue arising from a fountain solution and the volatile organic compound arising from an ink residue to be present as per instant claim 33. The entire laminate structure (including 2 and 8) is immersed in an acidic aqueous solution comprising phosphoric acid. See col. 5, lines 5-10 and col. 8, lines 6-30. The substrate film has a thickness of at least 30 microns (col. 4, line 32). Okabe essentially teaches the claimed invention but does not provide for a reactive composition including a volatile organic carbonyl including urea or C5-9 aldehyde compound, an acrylic layer, a paper substrate (instant claims 33, 34, 41, 44, and 45). Santurri et al. teaches a packaging material having a substrate of paper stock, kraft or sulfite paper, or transparent polyolefin polypropylene or polyethylene films (col. 2, lines 5-10, lines 31-38) receiving a coating mixture of C5-9 aldehyde such as urea formaldehyde, polyvinyl acetate, and acrylic via gravure coating (col. 6, lines 21-40). It would therefore have been obvious to modify

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the Okabe reference by incorporating the teaching of the Santurri reference in analogous art, because the Okabe reference teaches the protective printable composition coating including polyvinyl acetate over the substrate and the secondary reference clearly suggests polyvinyl acetate, acrylic, and urea formaldehyde are functional equivalents both used for adding to the seal strength of the substrate in packaging materials as taught by Santurri at col. 6, lines 12-40. It would have also been obvious to utilize a paper because Santurri teaches both paper, kraft paper, and transparent polyolefin films are functional equivalents used for flexibility in packaging materials as taught by Santurri at col. 2, lines 8-10. Therefore there would be a reasonable expectation of success in the modification to one of ordinary skill in the art because the combination teaches the instantly claimed invention.

The combination of Okabe and Santurri is silent to teaching a printable clay layer (instant claim 33) or ink introduced on and into the clay layer in an amount of about 0.5-6 grams of ink /m² (instant claim 33). Hoffman teaches a laminated paperboard package having enhanced graphics using a sheet of clay-coated or super calendered publication paper printed with graphics. The sheet is then applied to a cellulosic substrate when producing a product such as a cereal box. The clay is used to provide a dark colored background substrate to maintain the fine resolution of the graphics printed thereon. See col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 15, and col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 5. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination to include clay as instant claim 33 because Hoffman teaches paper and clay-coated paper are functional equivalents and clay helps to enhance the graphics printed thereon used in packaging materials (col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 15, and col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 5 of Hoffman). It also would have been obvious to include ink on the clay layer because the

applied references employ printing inks on the packaging and the amount of ink /m² or fountain solution in an amount of 25-4000 milligrams of solution / m² of the package material is an optimizable variable considering that the amount recited directly effects the coverage area of the packaging. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272. Further one would expect the ink or solution to flow into the clay layer because the clay is porous. Also the substantially releasing of the carbonyl compound would be expected because the same materials are there.

Okabe nor Santurri teach the thickness of a paper or cellulosic substrate/layer (instant claims 33, and 36-37 of about 50-305 micrometers, 400-800 micrometers or 150 to 250 micrometers, or the paper from 50-1200 micrometers or clay layer thickness from 10-100 micrometers of instant claim 33). Hoffman teaches the paper substrate and clay coated paper are within the range of 0.00075-0.00200 inches (19.05 microns-50.8 microns), which falls within Applicant's range of about 50 to 305 microns. See col. 2, lines 60-65. Hoffman teaches the cellulosic substrate can have one or more plies and generally have a thickness of 0.012 –0.025 inches (304.8 – 635 microns), falling within Applicant's range of about 50 to 305 microns or 305 to 1015 microns. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize a thickness as claimed because these thicknesses are conventional and optimizable as thickness also effect the flexibility and strength of the layer. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272. The clay layer between 10 and 100 microns is optimizable as Hoffman explains the clay layer because the clay coating must be thick enough to mask the color, see col. 1, lines 50-55. Thus, thickness of the clay layer effects the masking color ability. The paper thickness

having a lower range of 150 to 250 micrometers is also optimizable because Hoffman explains that a lesser weight laminate can be obtained when producing cereal boxes or milk cartons and may be formed of one or more plies of the cellulosic substrate, thus making it obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to produce a thickness range of 150-250 microns as the thickness effects the weight and may be lighter/thinner (see col. 3, lines 10-25 of Hoffman).

Claim 38-40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al. and further in view of USPN 5,882,746 to Hoffman and further in view of USPN 5,378,762 to Czornij et al.

The combination of Okabe, Santurri, and Hoffman are relied upon above. The combination does not include a hydrazide or aromatic hydrazide like benzoic hydrazide of instant claims 38-40. Czornij teaches a coating composition including a pigment dispersant such as hydrazine derivatives like benzoic hydrazide to be applied to a plastic substrate for aqueous coating compositions to enhance pigment dispersion in the solution (see the Abstract, col. 2, lines 25-49, col. 5, lines 30-32, and col. 8, lines 16-20). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to include the hydrazide ingredients of claims 38-40 because Czornij teaches utilizing hydrazide ingredients in coatings that may be applied to plastic substrates to enhance pigment dispersion in the solution (see the Abstract, col. 2, lines 25-49, col. 5, lines 30-32, and col. 8, lines 16-20 of Czornij).

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over USPN 4,818,588 to Okabe et al. in view of USPN 3,936,560 to Santurri et al. and further in view of USPN 5,882,746 to Hoffman and further in view of USPN 5,262,228 to Kohyama et al.

The combination of Okabe, Santurri, and Hoffman are relied upon above. The combination does not include a Grinard reagent (instant claim 42). Kohyama teaches a composition used in packaging materials that comprises aldehydes and a Grinard reagent (see Abstract and col. 9, lines 20-30 and line 63). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination to utilize a Grinard reagent because Kohyama teaches the usefulness in compositions for packaging materials used for their reducing ability to reduce the aldehyde to a straight chain alkane (see col. 9, lines 20-65 of Kohyama).

Claim Objections

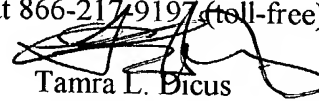
Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not teach guanidine sulfate.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamra L. Dicus whose telephone number is 571-272-1519. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-4:30 p.m., alternate Fridays.

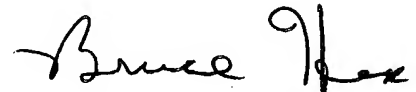
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tamra L. Dicus
Examiner
Art Unit 1774

11/22/04



BRUCE H. HESS
PRIMARY EXAMINER